

HF Happenings



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the week of 8 February 2016

The Leap Year Challenge

You are invited to take part in the Leap Year Challenge on Monday 29 February 2016 and make as many contacts as you can on this day. The challenge starts at 00:01 and ends at 23:59 CAT all modes, all bands. Work a station once only regardless of band, mode or call sign.



Submit your log by midnight on Wednesday 2 March 2016 by e-mail to zs4bfm@mweb.co.za. The log received with the most QSOs will win a SARL membership for 2016/2017. If you do not take part, you will have to wait until 2020, the next leap year, to put the date 29 February into your logbook!

INDEXA Newsletter

The Winter 2016 Edition of the International DX Association's (INDEXA) Newsletter is now available for download at www.indexa.org/newsletters.html. This issue (#112) includes a report of the TX3X DXpedition to Chesterfield Islands conducted in early October 2015. "Sometimes Mother Nature can throw weather and propagation woes that far outdo whatever mischief Mr Murphy might delight in providing. Read how very rough seas disturbed even sleeping patterns for the TX3X team and how Planetary K-factors were a perfect measure of the reduced propagation between the team and the world that they had hoped to serve. Then, applaud the team for doing the best that they could."

simpleMorse

simpleMorse is a freeware program to practice decoding Morse code by ear. It can generate random code groups or sound out a user-supplied ASCII text file. It runs under Microsoft Windows (and under Linux aided by Wine).

Note: Morse code is NOT a requirement for your amateur licence, but it remains a pursuit for some. The file below is ZIPped to reduce bandwidth usage. Extract the contents to a working folder before using it. François Daigneault, VE2AAY, wrote the program for the RAC.
<http://wp.rac.ca/wp-content/uploads/files/newham/simpleMorse.zip>.

DXCC News

The 2015 TT8AMO DXpedition to Chad has been approved for DXCC credit.

VKOEK Heard Island News

In a press release dated 1 February, Rich, KY6R, reports, "In exactly one month, the 'Advance VKOEK Team' will leave for Cape Town, South Africa. They will check in with our shipping agent and local Cape Town team and process the arrival of our container. The Braveheart will arrive soon after this team arrives. The excitement is building and we are making last minute preparations before the team starts their epic journey."



South African Radio League * Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union since 1925



Also reported on 5 February - the container carrying the equipment for the expedition has arrived in Cape Town, South Africa and has been put into storage awaiting arrival of the advance team on 3 March. The vessel Braveheart will arrive 5 March, while the full team will arrive on 7 March. We will sail for Heard Island on 10 March, weather permitting, of course!

In addition, we are very appreciative of our South Africa team - Paul ZS1S, Pierre, ZS1HF, Malcolm, ZS6MAL, Sue, ZS1AFR, and Tom, ZS1AFS. Together with similar teams in California, Virginia and Perth, Australia, the logistics is being managed professionally and securely.

Also reported on 1 February - Big Ben, the volcano on Heard Island, has erupted. Read all the details at
<http://vk0ek.org/2016/02/01/heard-island-volcano-is-erupting>

* In their news release and web site, they have Paul, ZS1S as ZA1A

VP8SGI South Georgia Island DXpedition News

Members of the Intrepid-DX Group are now QRT as VP8SGI from South Georgia Island due to a big storm early Sunday morning. Everybody is OK and now they are waiting a weather change to dismount and pack everything. Last log file will be uploaded from Stanley, Falkland Islands. This is actually a day early because they stated/planned earlier in the week that they would go QRT at sunrise on 8 February. During the past week, the VP8SGI team battled stormy weather conditions with high winds and snow, which damaged their antennas and tents. This led to a stoppage of operations for several hours to make repairs. We must also mention some of the bad behavioural activities and DXing practices by individuals on the air, which slowed down and hindered the VP8SGI operators from working many more stations.

QSL VP8SGI via KU9C, ClubLog's OQRS or LoTW. As this was being written on Sunday morning, the VP8SGI team made 79 744 QSOs with 21 171 Unique call signs per ClubLog as of 18:18 UTC 6 February <https://secure.clublog.org/charts/?c=VP8SGI>. Breakdown by modes are 53 592 - CW, 20 446 - SSB, 5 705 - RTTY and 1 - PSK. Breakdown by percentage by continents are 1,1 - AF, 0,0 - AN, 8,0 - AS, 47,3 - EU, 38,3 - NA, 0,4 - OC and 4,8 - SA. For more detailed information, see <http://www.intrepid-dx.com/vp8>

Are you making use of Cannabis to get through the contest?

RFI from hydroponic growing lights has markedly increased over the

February

- 2 - World Wetland's Day
- 7 - [AWA CW Activity Day](#)
- 10 - Ash Wednesday
- 13 and 14 - [SARL National Field Day; CQ WW WPX RTTY Contest](#)
- 14 - [SARL Youth Net at 15:00 UTC; Valentine's Day](#)
- 15 - [Closing date for the PEARS VHF/UHF logs](#)
- 20 - [SARL Youth Sprint](#)
- 24 - [Closing date for March Radio ZS articles](#)
- 27 - [West Rand ARC Flea Market](#)
- 27 - National Milk Tart Day
- 28 - [SARL Digital Contest](#)
- 29 - [The Leap Year Challenge](#)

March

- 5 and 6 - Buffalo City Hobby and Craft Expo, East London
- 6 - [SARL Hamnet 40 m Simulated Emergency Contest](#)
- 18 - All schools close
- 19 and 20 - [SARL VHF/UHF Field Day](#)
- 20 - Autumn equinox, Palm Sunday
- 21 - Human Rights Day
- 22 - [Closing date for April Radio ZS articles; World Water Day](#)
- 23 - World Meteorological Day
- 24 - Purim
- 25 - Good Friday
- 26 - Two Oceans Marathon
- 27 - Easter Sunday
- 28 - Easter Monday / Family Day



past few years. Now police are using that RFI to detect and bust illegal marijuana growing operations.

<http://www.policeone.com/drug-interdiction-narcotics/articles/8224280-How-cops-are-catching-grow-ops-with-AM-radios>

Portable Power

The 2014 WRTC event required 65 portable generators (including backups) to power the stations. The contest sponsors chose the Honda EU2000is, which were found to be RFI free on 40 to 10 metres and only a small amount of noise on 80 metres.

<http://lists.contesting.com/pipermail/cq-contest/2016-January/112487.html>

Website of the Week - <http://danariely.com>

Dan Ariely is a behavioural economist and the author of Predictably Irrational and The (Honest) Truth About Dishonesty. His research interests include the motivations and psychology behind cheating, including how it can be discouraged. In 2012, he wrote an article for the Wall Street Journal entitled Why We Lie. The article discussed his research findings of why people cheat, and how cheating can be discouraged.

One simple deterrent: providing a moral reminder to not cheat before an opportunity to cheat is presented. This can be as simple as asking participants to provide a signed statement along the lines of, "I promise that the information I am providing is true" before the information is elicited, rather than after.

www.wsj.com/articles/SB10001424052702304840904577422090013997320.

Perhaps we will see logging programs providing the option to display a dismissible dialog box with a similar message before generating and submitting contest log files.

Word to the Wise

Flooded Cable - when running conductors under ground, they can be subjected to damage from water intrusion, rodents, gardening or even just the weather. Flooded cable has a gel or liquid that discourages the intrusion of water by displacing it and the gnawing of rodents by being unpleasant tasting.

Living in the National Radio Quiet Zone

David, WA1OUI, sends a link to a video detailing the human implications of living in the National Radio Quiet Zone. "It's about the thousands of square miles around the National Radio Telescope in West Virginia that must be radio emission free and what that does to the inhabitants: no cell, microwave, Wi-Fi, ham radio or anything!" <https://youtu.be/I35z9Borplw>

In South Africa, we will have such an area around the Square Kilometre Array

Operating Tip

Use Challenges and Teams to Develop Multi-op Skills

Joel, W5ZN, used a challenge and reward to develop new operator skills in his local radio club, "The Rookie Roundup" <http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup> has proven to be an excellent modern day replacement for the Novice Roundup of years past. The format and activity is excellent, but the entries have been single op! This year in the Rookie Roundup - CW in December, I challenged my local club to learn CW and the reward would be the opportunity to operate from my station. Two "Rookies" took the challenge and chose to operate as a multi-op, assisting each other with the effort finishing with an outstanding score and pride of accomplishment.

So, here is my challenge to all of you multi-ops, or multi-op-capable stations: Get some Rookies to your station for a multi-op Rookie Roundup effort!"

Technical Topics and Information

Steve, N2IC, "After having issues with USB ports in radios and computers getting damaged by voltage surges, I bought some USB Optoisolators. Unfortunately, in their unshielded, plastic cases, they generate radiate excessive noise at RF frequencies in my environment."

A Party Trick

Here is an interesting party trick (well, it depends on the party): Generating electricity from cardboard, pencil and Teflon tape! It generates enough energy to power an LCD display.
<https://www.electormagazine.com/news/generate-electricity-with-cardboard-a-pencil-and-teflon-tape>

Rust

Rusts on the surface of non-exotic iron materials can be removed with a little salt and electrolysis. <http://www.instructables.com/id/Remove-Rust-Easily-and-Effectively-With-Salt-and-E/>. Steel bluing and browning provide some protection against conventional rusting.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bluing_%28steel%29

Smartphone Mount

Here is a DIY smartphone mount. Scale it up or down for your device
<http://www.instructables.com/id/Universal-SmartPhone-Car-Mount/>

African DX



Angola, D3. Anna, RW4HRA, reportedly has received a license and will be active as D3YL from Saurimo, Angola. No QSNs have been reported yet, but she is expected to be on the HF bands. QSL via RA4HT.

Mali, TZ. Jeff, TZ4AM is now active on 80 metres. QSL via W4VAB.

Namibia, V5. Werner, DC8QT, Georg, DD8ZX and Klaus, DJ9KM plan to be active as V5/home calls from Omaruru from 9 to 18 February while on holiday. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters, and possibly 6 meters, using SSB, RTTY and PSK. They may be active as V55V in the upcoming CQ World Wide RTTY WPX contest. QSL V55V via DJ8VC and all others to home calls.

Lesotho 7P. Members of F6KOP Amateur Radio Club will be active as 7P8C from the Maseru District in Lesotho between 8 and 17 February. Activity will be on 160 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY, with five stations on the air. QSL via F5GSJ, direct, by the Bureau, OQRS via F5GSJ. NO eQSL. A web page still has not been announced.

Togo 5V. Wim, ON6DX, will once again be active as 5V7TH from Agbodrafo, a town in southern Togo, between 11 and 23 February. Wim will arrive in Lomé, the capital of Togo, on 9 February. He states that this will be a one operator DXpedition. Activity will take place during his local



mornings and evenings as much as possible. Operation will be on 160 to 6 metres, including 30, 17 and 12 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY. Since his announcement, Wim has received many e-mails asking him to do top bands. He states, "Due to high demand for 5V7 on the top bands, I am going to take a 80 m vertical and a 160 m sloper with me. Only if I can find enough space to put them up, I will do 80 and 160 CW only." Suggested frequencies are available on his Web page. For more details and updates, see www.dxpedition.be/5V7TH.html

African Islands

IOTA frequencies

CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz

SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz



Coetivy Island, S79C. The S79C (AF-119, November 2015) video produced by team member PA3EWP is available on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eKXIJVWvKos>

Mauritius, 3B8. Eric, OE4AAC will be active as 3B8HD from 11 February to 1 March. Activity will be holiday style on the HF bands using CW. QSL to home call.

Cape Verde D4. Girts, YL2KL, will once again active as D4C. Activity will be during the ARRL DX CW Contest (20 and 21 February) as a Single-Op/All-Band entry. QSL via D4C. For the latest information, check the D4C Web page at <http://www.d4c.cc>, also their FaceBook page at <https://www.facebook.com/D4C.STATION>

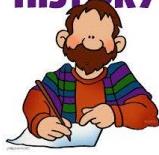
Guinea, 3XY. Members of the Italian DXpedition Team will be active as 3XY1T from the Los Islands (AF-051, WW loc IJ39cl) between 18 February and 4 March. The 3XY1T Team sent out the latest news: Everything is ready as planned for our departure on 17 February 2016. We anticipate arriving at Los Island (AF-051) in the morning of Thursday 18 February. The island does not have a power grid; our resort has a generator operating only during the night. We rented two generators for daylight operations; consequently, there might be occasional breaks for the maintenance of this equipment.

We received several requests for RTTY activity. In order to offer such a "mode new one" to as many amateurs as possible, we shall concentrate our RTTY operations on a single band, i.e. 15 m. In analysing statistical data, we noticed that there is a high demand for this country in VK/ZL. These stations are invited to use the cluster to warn us of possible openings. Long-path openings to Japan will be closely monitored and we suggest these stations to make use of propagation forecasts to optimise their chances.

We plan to have, as usual, our real-time online log available via internet, with uploads every minute (barring connection problems). It can be accessed at the address <http://win.i2ysb.com/logonline>. In addition, the online QSL request (OQRS) will be active as from the very first QSO. We advise to check the time/date of the latest online update, as shown on the Log entry page, before repeating a QSO. Specific requests should be addressed ONLY to our pilot stations, Arturo, IK7JWY, and Sergio, IK0FTA (for the 6 m band). The pilot stations can check and correct possible Log errors. During the DXpedition, do NOT send mail to I2YSB or other Team members, such messages will not be answered.

News and Forum at www.hamradioweb.net/ 3XY1T home page at www.i2ysb.com/idt/

Fuerteventura Island, EA8. Mike, DG5LAC, will once again be active as EA8/DG5LAC from Fuerteventura Island (IOTA AF-004) between 28 May and 10 June. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using SSB with 100 watts. QSL via DG5LAC, direct or by the Bureau. Log will be uploaded to LoTW, eQSL and WWFF.



This week in History

(The week starting 8 February 2016)

660 BC - Celebrated in Japan as the founding date of the Japanese nation, which occurred with the accession to the throne of the first Emperor, Jimmu (11 February)

1587 - Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots, was beheaded at Fotheringhay, England, after 19 years as a prisoner of Queen Elizabeth I (8 February)

1809 - Author and naturalist Charles Darwin (1809 - 1882) was born in Shrewsbury, England. Best known for his work *Origin of the Species* concerning the theory of evolution (12 February)

1847 - American inventor Thomas Edison (1847 - 1931) was born in Milan, Ohio. Throughout his lifetime, he acquired over 1 200 patents including the incandescent bulb, phonograph and movie camera. Best known for his quote, "Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration" (11 February)

1910 - William Boyce founded The Boy Scouts of America in Washington, D.C., modelled after the British Boy Scouts (8 February)

1929 - Italian dictator Benito Mussolini granted political independence to Vatican City and recognized the sovereignty of the Pope (Holy See) over the area, measuring about 110 acres (11 February)

1929 - The St Valentine's Day massacre occurred in Chicago as seven members of the Bugs Moran gang were gunned down by five of Al Capone's mobsters posing as police (14 February)

14 February - Celebrated as (Saint) Valentine's Day around the world, now one of the most widely observed unofficial holidays in which romantic greeting cards and gifts are exchanged (oh what a circus!)

Contest Calendar

This week's contests as compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 1 to 8 February 2016

ARRL School Club Roundup

13:00 UTC 8 February to 23:59 UTC 12 February

Mode: CW, Phone, RTTY/Digital

Bands: All, except 60, 30, 17, 12 m

Classes: Single Op (I); Club/Multi-Op (C); School Club/Group (S)

Max operating hours: 24 hours total; 6 hours out of any 24-hour period with off times of at least 30 minutes

Exchange: RS(T), class (I/C/S) and state, province or county

Work stations: Once per mode

QSO Points: 1 point per phone QSO; 2 points per CW/RTTY/digital QSO

Multipliers: States and VE provinces and DXCC countries and (2x class C QSOs) and (5x class S QSOs)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 27 February 2016

Post log summary at:

<http://www.b4h.net/arrlscr/>

Mail logs to: School Club Roundup, c/o LIMARC, PO Box 392, Levittown, NY 11756, USA

Find rules at: <http://www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup>

QRP Fox Hunt

02:00 - 03:30 UTC 10 February

Mode: CW

Bands: 40 m Only

Classes: Single Op - fox or hound

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or county, name and power output

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 11 February 2016

E-mail logs to: (see rules)
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.grpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

Phone Fray
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 10 February
Mode: SSB
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m
Classes: Single Op
Max power: 100 watts
Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or county; non-NA: Name
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station
Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC 12 February 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
<http://www.3830scores.com>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.perluma.com/Phone_Fray_Contest_Rules.pdf

CWops Mini-CWT Test
13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 10 February and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 11 February
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or county
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each call once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 13 February 2016
Post log summary at:
<http://www.3830scores.com>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
<http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html>

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, Data
20:00 - 21:30 UTC 10 February
Mode: RTTY, PSK
Bands: 80 m Only
Classes: (none)
Exchange: RST and serial no
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: (see rules)
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 17 February 2016
Upload log at: <http://www.vhfcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
<http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2016/r80mcc.shtml>

NCCC RTTY Sprint
01:45 - 02:15 UTC 12 February
Mode: RTTY
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 14 February 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
<http://www.3830scores.com/>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html>

QRP Fox Hunt
02:00 - 03:30 UTC 12 February
Mode: CW
Bands: 80 m Only
Classes: Single Op - fox or hound
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or county, name and power output
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 13 February 2016
E-mail logs to: (see rules)
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.grpfoxyhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

NCCC Sprint Ladder
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 12 February
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m
Classes: Single Op
Max power: 100 watts
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station
Multipliers: Each US state (including KL7 and KH6) once per band; Each VE province once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 14 February 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
<http://www.3830scores.com>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest
00:00 UTC 13 February to 23:59 UTC 14 February
Mode: RTTY
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op All Band - QRP, low or high - tribander or rookie; Single Op Single Band - QRP, low or high - tribander or rookie; Multi-One - low or high; Multi-Two; Multi-Unlimited
Max operating hours: Single Op: 30 hours, off times of at least 60 minutes
Multi-Op: 48 hours
Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts;
QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: RST and serial no

Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with same country on 20/15/10 m; 2 points per QSO with same country on 80/40 m; 2 points per QSO with different countries on same continent on 20/15/10 m; 4 points per QSO with different countries on same continent on 80/40 m; 3 points per QSO with different continent on 20/15/10 m; 6 points per QSO with different continent on 80/40 m
Multipliers: Each prefix once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 19 February 2016
E-mail logs to: rttyn@cqwp.com
Upload log at:
<http://www.cqwp.com/logcheck/>
Mail logs to: CQ WPX RTTY Contest, P.O. Box 1877, Los Gatos, CA 95031-1877, USA
Find rules at:
<http://www.cqwpxrtty.com/rules.htm>

SARL Field Day Contest
10:00 UTC 13 February to 10:00 UTC 14 February
Mode: CW, SSB, Digital
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single-Op Field (QRP/High); Multi-Op Field (QRP/High); Ultra Light Portable; General
Max power: QRP: 5 watts; non-QRP: >5 watts
Exchange: RS(T), number of transmitters, category (see rules) and province (or "DX")
Work stations: Once per band per mode
QSO Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: (see rules)
Score Calculation: (see rules)
Submit logs by: 21 February 2016
E-mail logs to: contest@netactive.co.za
Mail logs to: SARL Field Day Contest, PO Box 12104, Brandhof, 9324, South Africa
Find rules at:
<http://www.sarl.org.za/Web3/Members/Download.aspx?X=20151130131559djqp8afPgb.PDF>

Asia-Pacific Spring CW Sprint
11:00 - 13:00 UTC 13 February
Mode: CW

Bands: 40, 20 m
Classes: Single Op Single Radio
Max power: Asia Pacific: 150 watts; Non-Asia Pacific: maximum legal
Exchange: RST and serial no
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: Asia-Pacific: 1 point per QSO; Non-Asia-Pacific: 1 point per QSO with an Asia-Pacific station
Multipliers: Each prefix once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 20 February 2016
E-mail logs to: apsprint@jsfc.org
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
<http://jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt>

Dutch PACC Contest
12:00 UTC 13 February to 12:00 UTC 14 February
Mode: CW, SSB
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: SOAB - CW, SSB or mixed - low or high; SOAB Mixed QRP; Multi-One Mixed - PA only; Multi-Two Mixed - PA only; Multi-Unlimited Mixed; Single Op Single Band CW; Single Op Single Band SSB; SWL
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: PA: RS(T) and province; non-PA: RS(T) and serial no
Work stations: Once per band per mode
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with a PA station
Multipliers: PA provinces once per band per mode
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 15 March 2016
E-mail logs to: pacc@dutchpacc.com
Upload log at:
<http://server4.veronict.nl:81/WebEditor/app>
Mail logs to: PACC Contest Manager, c/o VERON Central Bureau, PO Box 1166, 6801 BD Arnhem, The Netherlands
Find rules at: <http://pacc.veron.nl/>

KCJ Topband Contest

12:00 UTC 13 February to 12:00 UTC 14 February
Mode: CW
Bands: 160 m Only
Classes: Single Op; Multi-Op
Exchange: JA: RST, Prefecture or District Code; non-JA: RST and Continent Code (AF, AS, EU, NA, OC or SA)
QSO Points: JA: 1 point per QSO with JA station; JA: 5 points per QSO with non-JA station; Non-JA: 1 point per QSO with JA station
Multipliers: Each JA prefecture/district; JA: each continent
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 14 March 2016
E-mail logs to: 2016toptest@kcj-cw.com
Mail logs to: T. Mori JH6IEK, Saida 556-36, Tamamura machi, Sawa gun, Gunma 370-1131, Japan
Find rules at: http://www.kcj-cw.com/contest/16_toptest_rules_e.pdf

SKCC Weekend Sprintathon
12:00 UTC 13 February to 24:00 UTC 14 February
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m
Classes: (none)
Max operating hours: 24
Exchange: RST, state, province or county, name and SKCC no or "NONE"
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Bonus Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: Each state, province or country once
Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points
Submit logs by: 21 February 2016
Post log summary at:
http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekend_sprintathon/submit-display.php
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekend_sprintathon/

OMISS QSO Party

15:00 UTC 13 February to 15:00 UTC 14 February
Mode: SSB
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op
Exchange: RS and (state/province/DX) and (OMISS No. if member)
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 2 points per QSO with OMISS member; 1 point per QSO with non-member;
Bonus: add 500 points to score if mobile for entire contest
Multipliers: Each US state once; Each VE province once; 1 DX country once; Power: <5 W = x 3, 100 W = x 2, >100 W = x 1
Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults x power mult) and bonus points
Submit logs by: 1 March 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Upload log at:
<http://www.omiss.net/Facelift/qsoElectronic.php>
Mail logs to: OMISS QSO Party, John Dean, KOJDD, 4118 Woodlane Drive, Woodbury, MN 55129, USA
Find rules at:
<http://www.omiss.net/Facelift/qsoParty.php>

FISTS Winter Unlimited Sprint
17:00 - 21:00 UTC 13 February
Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: QRP; QRO; Club
Max power: QRO: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: FISTS: RST, state, province or county, first name and FISTS no; non-FISTS: RST, state, province or county, first name and power
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 5 points per QSO with FIST member; FIST members: 2 points per QSO with non-FIST member
Multipliers: Each US state and VE province once; Each DXCC country once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 14 March 2016
E-mail logs to: n2ed@fistsna.org

Mail logs to: c/o Ed Wlodarski N2ED, 3 Shore Rd., Andover, NJ 07821-2240
Find rules at:
<http://fistsna.org/operating.html#sprints>

RSGB 1st 1.8 MHz Contest
19:00 - 23:00 UTC 13 February
Mode: CW
Bands: 160 m Only
Classes: Single Op - UK or overseas - assisted or unassisted
Exchange: UK: RST serial no and District Code; non-UK: RST and serial no
QSO Points: 2 points per QSO; 5 additional points for first QSO with each UK district; UK stations: 5 additional points for first QSO with each country outside of UK
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 20 February 2016
Upload log at: <http://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>
Mail logs to: RSGB-G3UFY, 77 Bensham Manor Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR7 7AF, England
Find rules at:
<http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2016/r1st-160m.shtml>

PODXS 070 Club Valentine Sprint
00:00 - 23:59 UTC 14 February
Mode: PSK31
Bands: 160, 80, 40 m
Classes: OM - QRP or LP; YL - QRP or LP
Max operating hours: 6
Max power: LP: 50 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: Name, OM or YL and state, province or county
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with OM; 2 points per QSO with YL
Multipliers: Each state, province and DXCC country once only
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 28 February 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Upload log at: <http://hamclubs.info/scorer/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.podxs070.com/o7o-club-sponsored-contests/valentine-sprint>

Balkan HF Contest

12:00 - 18:00 UTC 14 February

Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 80, 40 m

Classes: Category A; Category B

Max power: Cat A: 1 000 W input; Cat B: 10

W input

Exchange: RS(T) and QSO no

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with category

A; 2 points per QSO with category B

Multipliers: Each Balkan prefix once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = (total 80 m QSO points x total 80 m mults) and (total 40 m QSO points x total 40 m mults)

Submit logs by: 21 February 2016

E-mail logs to: logs@hamradio.ro

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://balkan-hf.hamradio.ro/rules>

Classic Exchange, Phone

14:00 UTC 14 February to 08:00 UTC 15

February and 14:00 UTC 16 February to 08:00 UTC 17 February

Mode: AM, SSB, FM

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2 m

Classes: (none)

Exchange: Name, RS, state, province or county and rcvr/xmtr manuf/model

Work stations: Once per band per mode per rcr/xmtr manuf/model

QSO Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = sum(total mode QSO points x total mode mults) and Bonus Points

Submit logs by: 30 November 2016

E-mail logs to: wq8u@arrl.net

Mail logs to: WQ8U, 104 W. Queen St., Hillsborough, NC 27278, USA

Find rules at:

<http://www.classicexchange.org/jan16/jan16ann.html>

Next Week's Contests

Classic Exchange, Phone, 14:00 UTC 14 February to 08:00 UTC 15 February and 14:00 UTC 16 February to 08:00 UTC 17 February

QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 17 February

Phone Fray, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 17 February

CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 17 February and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 18 February

AGCW Semi-Automatic Key Evening, 19:00 - 20:30 UTC 17 February

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, CW, 20:00 - 21:30 UTC 18 February

NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 19 February

QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 19 February

NCCC Sprint Ladder, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 19 February

ARRL International DX CW Contest, 00:00 UTC 20 February to 24:00 UTC 21 February

SARL Youth Day Sprint, 08:00 - 10:00 UTC 20 February

Russian PSK WW Contest, 12:00 UTC 20 February to 11:59 UTC 21 February

Feld Hell Sprint, 20:00 - 21:59 UTC 20 February

AWA Amplitude Modulation QSO Party, 23:00 UTC 20 February to 23:00 UTC 21 February

CQC Winter QSO Sprint, 01:00 - 02:59 UTC 22 February

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest, 02:00 - 04:00 UTC 22 February

Local Contests

The South African Radio League National Field Day

The aim is to work as many stations as possible on all the HF amateur bands (excluding the 30, 17 and 12 m WARC bands). The first leg of the National Field Day will take place from 10:00 UTC on Saturday 13 February to 10:00 UTC on Sunday 14 February 2016. Activity is on all the HF bands, excluding the WARC bands (30, 17 and 12 metre bands) and you may use phone, CW, PSK and RTTY.



You and/or your club can participate in one of six classes. Class A - Field Station, Multi operator; Class B - Field Station, Multi operator, QRP; Class C - Field Station, Single Operator; Class D - Field Station, Single Operator, QRP or Class E - Ultra Light Portable. Class F- General stations. To encourage more individuals and groups to participate in the National Field Day events, a 6-hour section has been introduced. It need not be for one continuous 6-hour period, but once operation has commenced in the contest, off periods must be a minimum of 60 minutes.

Only one call sign per station is permitted. In the case of multi-operator stations using more than one transmitter, all operators shall use the same call sign. Equipment for Field Stations may only be set up in the 24 hours prior to the starting time of the contest. This restriction applies to antennas, masts, towers and transmitting equipment, but excludes accommodation such as a caravan, tent, etc.

The exchange is a RS or RST report, the number of transmitters, the Field Day operating class and the Provincial abbreviation. Scores are based on the total number of QSO points x the power multiplier x the number of provinces worked X the class multiplier. QSO Points - each contact with a station from one of the South African provinces counts for five points. Each DX contact counts for one point. Power multipliers - x 6 for power of 5 watts or less; x 4 for power of 50 watts or less; x 2 for power of 100 watts or less and x 1 for power greater than 100 watts. The power multiplier for an entry is determined by the maximum output power used by any transmitter used to complete any contact during the event.

A multiplier of one for each one of the 9 South African provinces worked (regardless of band) and one extra for working any station outside of the 9 provinces i.e. DX. EC - the Eastern Cape; FS - the Free State; GP - Gauteng; KN - KwaZulu-Natal; LP - Limpopo; MP - Mpumalanga; NC - the Northern Cape; NW - North West; WC - the Western Cape and DX - used for all others that does not fall in the above group. Class multiplier - General stations, class multiplier of 1 and Field stations single and multi, class multiplier of 3

Logs, in ADIF, Cabrillo or MS Excel format and labelled "your call sign NFD," shall be sent by e-mail to zs4bfm@gmail.com or by post to the South African Radio League National Field Day, Box 12104, Brandhof, 9324. The closing date for log submissions is 21 February 2016. Note: A photo(s) of the station in operation (JPG format) MUST accompany every log entry.

Please consult the 2016 SARL Blue Book for the complete rules.

South African Radio League Youth Sprint

The Youth Sprint is a fun activity to celebrate the Youth and to promote contacts between young radio amateurs in Southern African countries. Call "CQ Youth Sprint." The Sprint takes place on Saturday 20 February from 08:00 to 10:00 UTC and the exchange is a RS report and the operator's age. It is a phone sprint on the 40-metre band, 7 063 to 7 100 and 7 130 to 7 200 kHz

Contacts between stations in the age group 25 and younger are worth 5 points; contacts between stations in the under 25 group and over 26 group is worth 2 points and contacts between stations in the age group 26 and older are worth 1 point. Logs, in ADIF, Cabrillo or MS Excel format and labelled "your call sign Youth Sprint," must be submitted by 27 February 2016

by e-mail to youthsprint@sarl.org.za. The age of the operator must be shown on the summary sheet. All the logs received will be entered into a draw for a Student membership of the South African Radio League.

Certificates will be awarded for all logs that are submitted correctly. Prizes will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in the competition. All logs with more than 10 contacts will be entered for a lucky draw.

Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga Jeug Naeloop

Die Jeug Naeloop is 'n prettige aktiwiteit om die jeug te vier en om kontakte tussen jong radio amateurs in Suider-Afrikaanse lande te bevorder. Roep "CQ Jeug Naeloop." Die Naeloop vind plaas op Saterdag 20 Februarie vanaf 08:00 tot 10:00 UTC en 'n RS-verslag en die ouderdom van die operateur word uitgeruil. Dit is 'n foon naeloop op die 40 meter band, 7 063 tot 7 100 en 7 130 tot 7 200 kHz.

Kontak tussen stasies in die ouderdomsgroep 25 en jonger is 5 punte werd; kontakte tussen stasies in die onder 25 groep en ouer as 26 groep is 2 punte werd en kontakte tussen stasies in die ouderdomsgroep 26 jaar en ouer is 1 punt werd. Logstate, in ADIF, Cabrillo of MS Excel-formaat en gemerk "jou roepsein Jeug Naeloop," moet teen 27 Februarie 2016 ingedien word per e-pos aan youthsprint@sarl.org.za. Die ouderdom van die operateur moet gewys word op die opsommingsblad. Al die logstate ontvang sal in 'n trekking vir 'n Student lidmaatskap van die Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga geplaas word.

Sertifikate sal toegeken word vir alle logstate wat korrek ingedien. Pryse sal toegeken word aan die 1ste, 2de en 3de plek in die kompetisie. Alle logstate met meer as 10 kontakte sal aan 'n gelukkige trekking deelneem.

Items used with acknowledgement to the ARRL Letter, the ARRL DX News, the ARRL Contest Update, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Newsletter, WIA-News, the RSGB News, DxCoffee, Southgate ARC News, DX World and the Amateur Radio Newsletter